

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-16, and substitute therefor the following new Claims 17-19 below.

1-16. Cancelled.

17. (New) A method of establishing a clonal human embryonic stem cell line capable of sustaining a phenotype of normal embryonic stem cells following prolonged *in vitro* culture, the method comprising the steps of

    providing a culture of human embryonic stem cells;

    removing an individual human embryonic stem cell in a separate culture which is essentially free of mammalian serum; and

    culturing the cell in a serum-free medium such that the cell expands into a clonal culture of human embryonic stem cells maintaining the ability to differentiate into endoderm, mesoderm and ectoderm after at least six months of culture.

18. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein the medium is supplemented with a fibroblast growth factor.

19. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein the clonal culture of human embryonic stem cells is maintained for over twelve months.